

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A method of manufacturing an information recording medium having a water-based ink absorbing layer on a surface of a base material, the method including a procedure for forming the water-based ink absorbing layer, the procedure comprising the steps of:

- (1) coating the surface of the base material with a water-based ink absorbent containing a water-absorptive filler to form a coated layer;
- (2) covering a surface of the coated layer with a cover material;
- (3) irradiating the coated layer with active energy beam to cure the coated layer; and
- (4) removing the cover material from the coated layer.

Claim 2 (Original): A method of manufacturing an information recording medium having a water-based ink absorbing layer on a surface of a base material, the method including a procedure for forming the water-based ink absorbing layer, the procedure comprising the steps of:

- (1a) coating a surface of a cover material with a water-based ink absorbent containing a water-absorptive filler to form a coated layer;
- (2a) covering a surface of the coated layer with the base material;
- (3) irradiating the coated layer with active energy beam to cure the coated layer; and
- (4) removing the cover material from the coated layer.

Claim 3 (Original): An information recording medium having a base material and a water-based ink absorbing layer on a surface of the base material, the water-based ink absorbing layer being formed by a procedure, the procedure comprising the steps of:

- (1) coating the surface of the base material with a water-based ink absorbent containing a water-absorptive filler to form a coated layer;
- (2) covering a surface of the coated layer with a cover material;
- (3) irradiating the coated layer with active energy beam to cure the coated layer; and
- (4) removing the cover material from the coated layer.

Claim 4 (Original): An information recording medium having a base material and a water-based ink absorbing layer on a surface of the base material, the water-based ink absorbing layer being formed by a procedure, the procedure comprising the steps of:

- (1a) coating a surface of a cover material with a water-based ink absorbent containing a water-absorptive filler to form a coated layer;
- (2a) covering a surface of the coated layer with the base material;
- (3) irradiating the coated layer with active energy beam to cure the coated layer; and
- (4) removing the cover material from the coated layer.

Claim 5 (Original): An information recording medium having a base material and a water-based ink absorbing layer on a surface of the base material, the water-based ink absorbing layer being formed by a procedure, the procedure comprising the steps of:

- (1) coating the surface of the base material with a water-based ink absorbent containing a water-absorptive filler to form a coated layer;
- (2) covering a surface of the coated layer with a cover material;
- (3) irradiating the coated layer with active energy beam to cure the coated layer; and
- (4a) not removing the cover material from the coated layer.

Claim 6 (Original): An information recording medium having a base material and a water-based ink absorbing layer on a surface of the base material, the water-based ink absorbing layer being formed by a procedure, the procedure comprising the steps of:

- (1a) coating a surface of a cover material with a water-based ink absorbent containing a water-absorptive filler to form a coated layer;
- (2a) covering a surface of the coated layer with the base material;
- (3) irradiating the coated layer with active energy beam to cure the coated layer; and
- (4a) not removing the cover material from the coated layer.

Claim 7 (Original): An information recording medium having a base material and a water-based ink absorbing layer containing a water-absorptive filler on a surface of the base material, wherein centerline average roughness (Ra) of the water-based ink absorbing layer is 0.25 μ m or smaller, and glossiness of the water-based ink absorbing layer is 48% or higher.

Claim 8 (Original): The information recording medium according to claim 7, wherein the content of the water-absorptive filler is 5 to 50 wt% relative to the water-based ink absorbing layer.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The information recording medium according to ~~any one of claims 3 to 8~~ claim 3, wherein the water-absorptive filler is selected from the group consisting of silk, cellulose, collagen, starch, water-absorptive resin powder, silica, calcium carbonate and talc.